

THE TRUE DEMOCRAT.

JOHN G. COLLINS, Publisher.

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EVERGLADES DRAINAGE.

Newspaper Comments On This Important Subject.

That constitutional amendment, as L. A. Cribbs, of Avoca, Fla., sees it, and as he puts it in a communication to the Jasper News:

The biggest interest that has stared us in the face for many years is that constitutional amendment which is to be voted on in next November, which is known as Article No. 4.

In my judgment, it would be vitally against the interest of the common people for this amendment to be adopted. It would just open the door to railroad corporations and land syndicates and enable them to entail a burden and curse on coming generations for a hundred years to come.

When we think about changing our State Constitution we should be very careful. The law passed by our last Legislature creating a drainage commission conflicted with the good roads law which was created in 1903, which provided that all surplus money belonging to the Internal Improvement Fund should be deposited in the several county treasuries for the purpose of building good roads.

Not one cent of this money has ever been so deposited, but the drainage commission has already spent nearly \$60,000, which could have been applied to building good roads. It seems to me that there may be a corporation scheme about this drainage business.

The land to be drained is already in a lawsuit, the railroad corporations claiming the land by virtue of a contract with the State. Now, according to this constitutional amendment, if it is adopted, the people will be taxed to drain the land in the Everglades, and the very next day after it is drained the U. S. court may decide that it belongs to the corporations.

It seems to me that there is a corporation wedge being driven in here.

At any rate, there is plenty of unoccupied land in Florida yet, and there can be no harm in voting that amendment down and let it rest until the courts shall decide who the land really belongs to which that amendment would tax us to drain.

Gov. Broward has just returned from Fort Lauderdale, where he has been to witness the starting to work of the dredge Everglade, built for the board of drainage commissioners for the purpose of carrying out the Governor's pet scheme of draining the Everglades. The dredge was built at Fort Lauderdale, in New River, to the westward of the railroad bridge across the river. This place was selected because the dredge, when completed, was too wide to pass through the draw-bridge opening. From this it will be seen that this dredge can never be used anywhere else, unless it is taken apart and then rebuilt on the other side of the bridge. It can keep on cutting its way up New river, however, until it enters Lake Okeechobee, and then cut out again, provided enough funds can be obtained to carry on the work. Gov. Broward is having another dredge of the same class as the Everglade built at Fort Lauderdale. The second dredge will be known as Okeechobee. No report has yet been received of the working of the dredge, and nothing has yet been heard of it being sighted on the banks of the great inland sea of Florida.—Times-Union.

The DeLand Record, referring to the Ocala Banner's query, "Who is putting up the dough for Governor Broward's drainage campaign?" pertinently observes that if the voters of Florida are foolish enough to ratify the drainage amendment they will soon find out who pays the fiddler, to their sorrow.—St. Augustine Record.

Governor Broward and John Beard of Pensacola will meet in joint debate on the question of draining the Everglades in a few days and the problem will be ably and thoroughly discussed. When the respective sides have finished printing and distorting the speeches of the disputants there is no doubt the people of the state will be thoroughly enlightened. As they will vote on a constitutional amendment pertaining thereto in November, there is a certainty that they will relish all information about it that can be laid before them.—Tampa Times.

J. B. Long, in a communication to Clay County Times, says: However friendly I may have been towards Gov. Broward and his administration, I do not approve they selling the State lands for the paltry sum of 30 and 41 cents per acre, and that too in the face of the fact that he (Gov. Broward) had declared the lands of the Everglades worth \$5.00 per acre in their present state. It is a well known fact that timbered lands range in valuation from \$3.00 to \$10.00 per acre according to quantity and quality of timber.

The lands recently sold are no doubt well timbered lands and the idea of their being transferred from the State to land sharks and speculators for the meager sum 30 and 41 cents per acre is ridiculous and those who are in power and were parties to such a deal should receive the condemnation of all honest men.

I was a strong admirer of Gov. Broward. I had faith in his integrity and ability to guard the interest of the State. I did not believe he would use the office to satisfy a personal greed, but from all accounts thousands of acres of valuable lands have been literally given away. The present owners no doubt paid what they were worth, but the state got nothing. It may be legal but is not right.

DESCRIPTION OF LAND.

DESCRIPTION OF LAND.	Section.	Township.	Range.	Acres.	NAME OF OWNER.	Amount of Taxes and Costs.
That part of SW 1/4 of SE 1/4 lying south and east of the Tallahassee and Mico public road, containing 2 1/2 acres of land.	29	1n	2w	40	E. C. Smith	1 25
SW 1/4 of SE 1/4 of T C lot No. 31.	30	1n	2w	60	Mrs. Louise R. Moor estate	3 70
That part lying East of a Branch of the Neuse River, NW 1/4 of NW 1/4 and NE 1/4 of NW 1/4 of east corner of said NW 1/4 and run north 140 yds, thence west 140 yds, thence south 140 yds, thence east 140 yds to the place of beginning.	31	1n	2w	110	Mrs. Louise R. Moor estate	1 40
NW 1/4 of NE 1/4, NW 1/4, N 1/2 of SW 1/4.	32	1n	2w	120	Mrs. Louise R. Moor estate	5 23
W 1/2 of NE 1/4 and NE 1/4 of NE 1/4.	10	2s	2w	120	J. J. Pearce and R. W. Ashmore, Jr.	3 47
W 1/2 of NE 1/4 and NE 1/4 of NE 1/4.	12	2s	2w	120	William McCabe estate, W. B. Taylor, exctr.	2 78
W 1/2 of NE 1/4 and NE 1/4 of NE 1/4.	12	2s	2w	40	Wm. F. Hartfield.	1 63
W 1/2 of NE 1/4 and NE 1/4 of NE 1/4.	12	2s	2w	160	Emanuel Byrd	2 27
NW 1/4 of NE 1/4.	14	2s	2w	40	Chas. E. Buchanan	4 03
Fract. N 1/2 of SE 1/4 (60 a) and fract. and except the N 1/2 of SE 1/4.	14	2s	5w	140	Wm. McCabe estate, W. B. Taylor exctr.	1 33
Part of T C lot No. 5 O described to-wit: Beginning at the se corner of said lot 5, and run west 77 feet, thence north 70 feet, thence east 77 ft, and thence south 70 ft to place of beginning.					Jammie M. E. Alexander a 1/2 interest, Mary Wright a 1/2 interest, Mary Wright agt	7 61
T C lot No. 301 O E.					Ella Jones	4 97
Part of T C lot No. 4, N W A, described as follows: Commencing at the se corner of said lot and run w 90 ft on Georgia st, thence n 174 ft, thence e 90 ft, and thence s 174 ft to the place of beginning.					Becket Williams	9 10
Part of the W 1/2 of NW 1/4 of T C lot Beginning at the nw corner of said lot 45 and run east 35 ft and 6 inches, thence south 100 ft and 6 inches, thence west 35 ft and 6 inches, thence north 100 ft and 9 inches to the place of beginning.					Sophie McCormick	3 23
The W 1/2 of the west 40 ft of lot D, of T C lot No. 51, N W A, as per plat recorded in Deed Book H H, page 501					Susie Combs	1 50
The e 2-6 or the east 40 feet of lot No. 52, N W A, as per plat recorded in Deed Book H H, page 501					Susie Combs	1 50
Lot 7, of T C lot No. 55, N W A, as per plat recorded in Deed Book J J, page 600					William Jenkins	4 45
E 1/2 of W 1/2 of the S 1/4 of T C lot No. 7, N 1/2 Co 1/4					Maggie Hall	4 15
123 ft 4 inches off the east side of the S 1/4 of T C lot 26, N 1/2 Co 1/4.					Unknown	3 02
T C lots 58 and 59 S 1/2 Co 1/4.					Georgia Florida and Alabama Rwy Co	5 27
T C lot No. 67, S 1/2 Co 1/4.					Georgia Florida and Alabama Rwy Co	2 34
25 ft off the e side of T C lots Nos. 76 and 71 S 1/2 Co 1/4.					Mrs. Ellen Williams estate, R. A. Shine admr	2 19
T C lot No. 76, S 1/2 Co 1/4.					Georgia Florida and Alabama Rwy Co	3 02

W. A. DEMILLY,

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BRYAN'S NEW SURPRISE.

In His Fight Against Alleged Beef and Ice Trusts.

New Company Is Proposed to Manufacture Ice and Contract With the City to Sell It at From \$2 to \$4 Per Ton for Thirty Years.

County Solicitor W. J. Bryan says that he proposes to file information against the leaders of the national meat trust and have them all down in Jacksonville next August. Armour, Nelson, Swift, Cudahy and others, he declares, are in a combination operating in Florida, and he has no doubt that Governor Broward's requisition for them will be honored by the Governors of those States in which they reside.

Mr. Bryan does not believe that the trial of the local meat trust will come before the present term of court. He says that he already has much evidence, and will have much more when the case comes up for trial.

THE ICE CASE.

The case against the alleged ice trust will come up before Judge Shaylor tomorrow, and the general opinion prevails that the latest information will stand, as the county solicitor says that he corrected all the defects as complained of by the attorneys for the defendants.

It is more than likely that the attorneys for the defendants will endeavor to quash the new information, which will bring on a lively discussion. While the discussion will be spirited, it is said that Judge Shaylor will likely confine it to the forenoon session of the court. There will be numerous witnesses examined should the case come to trial tomorrow, and this may cause the trial to last for several days.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP OF ICE.

The talk about the city going into the ice business is still heard, and the council may take some sort of action on the matter at its session this evening. There are several parties who are desirous of the council postponing the subject for two weeks, as a company will probably be formed which will agree to make a contract to sell ice at from \$2 to \$3 per ton for a term of thirty years, provided the city will furnish the water and electricity at a small cost.

MR. CASSIDY'S INTEREST.

P. D. Cassidy, clerk of the circuit court, was reported to be one of those interested in this project, and he was seen yesterday afternoon by a Metropolitan reporter and said that he had taken up the subject with several gentlemen, and that the proposition seemed a very

popular one. Mr. Cassidy said he was interested in suitable property for an ice plant, and had seriously considered the matter before County Solicitor Bryan had inaugurated his fight. He felt confident of the success of the proposed venture and the ability of the company to sell ice at a remarkably low figure.

CITY ATTORNEY BARRS' VIEWS.

City Attorney Barrs was asked if he had heard of the above proposition, and he said he had discussed it with several gentlemen who expressed a desire to go into the enterprise.

"The proposition, as I understand it," said Mr. Barrs, "is for the city to furnish a very low rate for water and electricity, and this can be done, because Jacksonville has all the water necessary, and they can secure an abundance of electricity from 11 o'clock until 4 o'clock every afternoon, which is during the hours when there is a small demand for electricity. The proposed company, it is said, will freeze the ice harder and have cold storage plants, which will make it last much longer, and the people would, by a contract with the city, get ice for about one-third what they have been paying for it. The matter of a municipal ice plant is now before the council, and the members must determine what they desire in the premises. Both propositions, however, appeal to me. The main thing is to secure ice at a small cost for all the people, and have conditions so that the poorest family in the city can have an abundance of it constantly on hand."

MUCH INTEREST MANIFESTED.

The people, of course, are much interested in the contests against both the meat men and the ice men. Mr. Bryan claims that he has evidence that both of these commodities are sold in other cities for less than one-half the price charged in Jacksonville. These facts he proposes to use in the trials against the alleged trusts.

Mr. Bryan says he has some very important witnesses in both cases, and some witnesses who have not yet been summoned, and they will be called on to testify in behalf of the State.

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